



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
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March 12, 2003

**To:** Washington State Board of Health Members  
**From:** Don Sloma, Executive Director  
**Re:** **POTENTIAL BOARD WORK DURING THE 2003-2005 BIENNIUM**

**Summary**

Many of the Board's current policy development projects will be completed in the coming months. However, Board committees and the staff continue to work with DOH and others to develop several major regulatory change proposals that are slated to come before the full Board in the coming biennium. These include changes to the food code, on-site sewage regulations, arsenic standards in drinking water, HIV/AIDS rules involving blood borne pathogens and more. These rule revisions are estimated to consume a significant amount of staff time and the Board's planned meeting time in the coming biennium. *Below is a table with projected dates for public hearings on each of these rule revisions.* A more complete summary of each is attached and is also available on the Board's website at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/sboh/Rules/rules.htm>

However, additional Board member interest, staff time, and resources are available to pursue a limited number of high-priority policy development projects. The following list includes those that are in the development stage at this time. They are being presented in this very preliminary form now to stimulate thinking about projects the Board may wish to pursue once its budget situation is clear. We anticipate an opportunity to consider this list and any additions Board members may have at our July meeting in Colville. If you have a policy development project you would like the full Board to include in its work plan for the coming biennium, please contact Chair Lake or a Board staff person so we may include it on our list of possible projects for the July meeting.

**Discussion**

**Rule Revisions**

The following table summarizes the Board rule revision processes currently underway. Please see the attachment for a more complete summary of each rule:

<b>Rule Revision</b>	<b>Board Sponsor</b>	<b>Board Staff</b>	<b>Anticipated Hearing Date</b>
Newborn screening	Tom Locke	Doreen Garcia	May 2003
Transient accommodations	Carl Osaki	Craig McLaughlin	Fall 2003
Public water systems (arsenic)	Carl Osaki	Marianne Seifert	TBD
Food service	Carl Osaki	Marianne Seifert	December 2004
Food Worker Cards in AFHs	Carl Osaki	Marianne Seifert	May 2003
On-Site Sewage	Carl Osaki	Marianne Seifert	December 2003
Water Recreation	Carl Osaki	Marianne Seifert	Summer 2003
HIV/AIDS and BBIs	Tom Locke	Craig McLaughlin	TBD
Immunization housekeeping	Tom Locke	Craig McLaughlin	TBD

### **Potential Policy Development Projects**

*The following projects are either in development at this time or are ideas that have recently come to my attention for possible inclusion in the Board's 2003-2005 work plan.*

**Children's Diets and Physical Activity:** The Children's Health and Well-being Committee is developing a work plan to address this recently identified public health problem. It includes review of existing plans and efforts within DOH, the University of Washington's recently established Center for Public Health Nutrition, local boards of health and local health departments. A proposed work plan will be available by July.

**The 2004 State Health Report:** State law (RCW 43.20.050) requires SBOH to prepare a "state health report" in January of each even numbered year, including suggested health priorities for the ensuing biennium. The next report is due in just fewer than 10 months. Although the Board produced this report in 2002, an informal exemption from this requirement was sought and received in 2000 and no report was produced. New developments since our 2002 state health report include a worsened state economic and revenue picture including potential reductions in federal funds available to the state, a continuation of problematic rates of medical inflation, the possibility that the war on terror may involve bioterrorist attacks on the United States, West Nile virus, the June 2002 updated publication of *The Health of Washington State*, a major, statutorily required data input to the board's state health report, the advent of the Washington Health Foundation and HumanLinks efforts to engage the public through a series of forums on the future of the health care system, and the Board's own efforts to develop closer ties with local boards of health to identify and work together on high-priority health issues.

**Outreach Meetings with Local Boards of Health:** The Chair and I have begun a series of meetings with local boards of health to get better acquainted and to hear local perspectives and priorities. This information is one potential input to a possible 2004 state health report (see above). These meetings are expected to continue throughout 2003, and if desired by the Board, might be repeated later in the 2003-2005 biennium.

**School Indoor Air Quality Rules Review/Revision:** Based on the Board's review of school indoor air quality issues last year, Board staff is currently completing a review of Board and other agency rules in this area to identify any needed changes. The review is set for completion in July, and may lead to a recommendation for the Board, its staff or others to engage in a significant amount of work on this project.

**Public Health Dialogues with the Media:** Paul Lowenberg, an independent media consultant, has approached me with an idea to "amplify the voice of public health." He is developing a proposal under which the Board might co-sponsor a series of 6 to 12 discussion sessions with the Puget Sound Science Writers Association. The sessions would focus on specific public health issues likely to emerge in the coming year or two. The purpose would not be to produce material for specific stories, but rather to educate the media about the issues, to familiarize them with the state's public health infrastructure to address them, and to create personal contacts between public health experts and these print and electronic media writers.

**Local Board of Health Training and Orientation Materials:** For several years, WSALPHO has worked with DOH and certain staff members of local health jurisdictions to produce a one-day orientation and training for local board of health members. State Board members Carl Osaki, Tom Locke, and others have presented at these trainings in recent years. Designed both as an introduction to public health and an overview of upcoming issues, the training has made use of a 1996 publication the Board helped develop entitled *Welcome to Public Health*. Although the publication is out of print, copies are available on our Web site, and we receive requests for updated versions from local boards of health periodically. Time and the press of other business have prevented its updating. Similarly, WSALPHO has asked that we participate more heavily in developing the annual local board training, but so far we have not had the time, given the Board's other priority interests. Updating the orientation book and participating more heavily in the local board training might increase our visibility and produce closer working relations with local boards of health.